

«**DIACONY FOR POOR PRISONERS' RELEASE**»

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Date: ...../...../ 200..

«**Got sent his Son into the world...  
to be its Saviour**» (John 3, 17)

Dear Mr .....



While you were as a prisoner in jail, we were thinking of you with love. And we were praying for you, **although you come from a foreign country. From another nation.** We have been taught by our Lord to love people from all nations without any exception. Because, according to what Saint Paul, one of Christ's greatest disciples, preached to the great philosophers of Athens at Areopagus in 52 A.D., God «**from the one man created all races of men... He himself fixed beforehand the limits of the places where they would live**» (Acts 17, 26). This simply means that our Creator created all people who live on the earth from the very first man and woman, that is from Adam and

Eve, and set the bounds of their places.

Consequently **we are all brothers and sisters** as creatures of the only God and we ought to love each other; even when our fellow - man is a personal enemy who happened to hurt us in one way or another. During one of our regular visits to the Greek prisons, a Greek orthodox christian father came with us holding a parcel with many presents **for a prisoner who had just killed his son. Doesn't this impress you?** That man did exactly what our Christ suggests us to do: «Love your enemies» (Luke 6, 27).

Moreover Christ our Saviour Himself, who was born as a human being although he was God, loves equally all the people on the earth. But this does not mean that he approves of the mischiefs they cause either on purpose or not. Christ loves all people but he disapproves of their crimes. Just as a doctor does; he is sympathetic to his patient but he hates his illness. Christ has been showing this sort of love to everybody.

**A first example:**

Christ showed His love to an alien Mother, a Canaanite woman coming from **Phoenicia**, which was a hostile country for Israel. He healed her daughter when she went to Him (Mat. 15, 21-28).

**A second example:**

Christ also showed His love to an other alien, a **Roman** officer in Capernaum being a

village in Israel. He cured the officer's sick servant when the officer begged for His help (Mat. 8, 5-13).

**A third example:**

Christ showed the same love once more to a **Samaritan** woman at Jacob's well. As a man Christ was a Jew. But he talked to the Samaritan woman although Jews and Samaritans not only didn't they speak to each other but they were enemies as well (John 4, 5-42). He talked to the woman and he succeeded in not only saving her from the sins she lived in but also in turning her into a missionary. Later on as a missionary she visited many places and at the end she arrived in Rome. There she succeeded in christianizing Dominina, the daughter of Neron the Caesar, who was a terrible persecutor of Christians. **Therefore nobody is an alien either for Christ or for Christians. Nobody is an enemy. We, all the people, are children of the one and only God.**

So, we were thinking of you as God's child, as our brother, as long as you were in prison. And when the chief of the prison asked for our money help, we sent it immediately because we wanted your release from prison to be shortened. We couldn't do otherwise, since Christ our Lord identifies Himself with each one of the prisoners separately and says: **«I was in prison, and you visited me»** and **«Whenever you did this for one of the least important of these brothers of mine, you did it for me»** (Mat. 25' 36,40). That's why we have paid your debt and you are free now to go back to your country, your home, to your own people with the blessings of His Eminence **our Bishop NICODIMOS** of Kassandreia. God preserve you from a mishap! Our Lord Jesus Christ bless your return to your country and your home. And have always in mind the love He inspired into us about you and about each one of our fellow men.



My best wishes and our Lord's love  
**«Diacony for Poor Prisoners' Release»**

Archim. Gervasios J. Raptopoulos  
Preacher